



NEWS RELEASE

Chad Kasmar
Chief of Police

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FATAL VEHICLE COLLISION SOUTH PARK AVENUE AND EAST DREXEL ROAD

On the night of February 6, 2022, just before 10:30 p.m., officers patrolling the South Division responded to the intersection of S. Park Ave. and E. Drexel Road for a report of a vehicular collision involving two passenger vehicles.

Upon arrival, officers learned that all three occupants of a white 1984 GMC pickup were ejected from the vehicle and were found in the roadway. Additionally, police were notified that the driver of the other involved vehicle, a 2012 Infiniti sedan, had fled the scene on foot. The Tucson Fire Department also responded to the scene and transported all three occupants of the pickup to Banner University Medical Center with life-threatening injuries. Officers secured the area and with the assistance of the TPD Air Unit, the driver of the Infiniti was located hiding nearby. He was also taken to Banner UMC with serious, but non-life-threatening injuries.

Traffic Unit Detectives were contacted and responded to continue the investigation. Interviews conducted by officers and detectives determined that the Infiniti was traveling northbound on Park Ave. well above the posted speed limit of 40 MPH. Statements indicate that the Infiniti failed to stop for a red light on Park Ave. at Drexel Road and struck the pickup, which was traveling westbound on Drexel. After the collision, witnesses observed the driver exit the Infiniti and flee the scene. An officer from the DUI Unit responded to the hospital and determined that the driver of the Infiniti was impaired at the time of the collision.

According to evidence at the scene, none of the occupants in the two involved vehicles were wearing seatbelts. Due to the medical condition of the three occupants from the pickup, it is unknown who the driver was at the time of the collision. Excessive speed, failure to stop for a red light, and impaired driving are the known contributing factors in this collision. Officers identified the driver of the Infiniti as 41-year-old **Michael Aaron Roman**. Detectives continued their investigation – awaiting Roman's release from the hospital.



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On February 12, 2022, Traffic Detectives were notified that an occupant from the pickup had passed away as a result of the injuries sustained from the collision. The victim was identified as 61-year-old **James Vernon Ammons**. Next of kin has been notified. The two additional occupants were identified as a male and female in their 50s.

Michael Roman had been released from the hospital and booked into the Pima County Jail for multiple felonies. With the passing of Mr. Ammons, Traffic Detectives responded to the jail and charged Roman with 2nd Degree Murder. The investigation is still ongoing and additional charges may be added.



Michael Aaron Roman

Fatalities Year to Date:

For 2021 - 7

Pedestrian - 4

Bicycle - 0

Motorcycle - 2

Vehicle - 1

For 2022 - 17

Pedestrian - 7

Bicycle - 0

Motorcycle - 3

Vehicle - 7

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